

**Making The Arts Useful** 

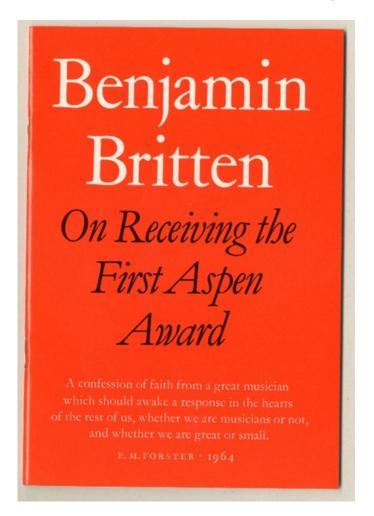








# "I want my music to be of use to people..."



## The Aspen Award

at the time when I was a discouraged young composer -muddled, fed-up and looking for work, longing to be used. I was most generously treated here, by old and new friends, and to all of these I can never be sufficiently grateful. Their kindness was past description; I shall never forget it. But the thing I am most grateful to your country for is this: it was in California, in the unhappy summer of 1941, that, coming across a copy of the Poetical Works of George Crabbe in a Los Angeles bookshop, I first read his poem, Peter Grimes; and, at this same time, reading a most perceptive and revealing article about it by E. M. Forster, I suddenly realised where I belonged and what I lacked. I had become without roots, and when I got back to England six months later I was ready to put them down. I have lived since then in the same small corner of East Anglia, near where I was born. And I find as I get older that working becomes more and more difficult away from that home. Of course, I plot and plan my music when I am away on tour, and I get great stimulus and excitement from visiting other countries; with a congenial partner I like giving concerts, and in the last years we have travelled as far as Vancouver and Tokyo, Moscow and Java; I like making new friends, meeting new audiences, hearing new music. But I belong at home-there-in Aldeburgh. I have tried to bring music to it in the shape of our local Festival; and all the music I write comes from it. I believe in roots, in associations, in backgrounds, in personal relationships. I want my music to be of

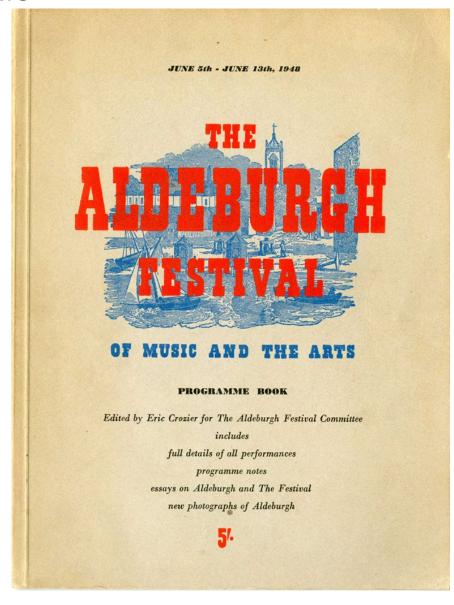
## The Aspen Award

use to people, to please them, to 'enhance their lives' (to use Berenson's phrase). I do not write for posterity—in any case, the outlook for that is somewhat uncertain. I write music, now, in Aldeburgh, for people living there, and further afield, indeed for anyone who cares to play it or listen to it. But my music now has its roots, in where I live and work. And I only came to realise that in California in 1941.

#### VI

People have already asked me what I am going to do with your money; I have even been told in the post and in the press exactly how I ought to dispose of it. I shall of course pay no attention to these suggestions, however well- or ill-intentioned. The last prize I was given went straight away to the Aldeburgh Festival, the musical project I have most at heart. It would not surprise me if a considerable part of the Aspen Award went in that direction; I have not really decided. But one thing I know I want to do; I should like to give an annual Aspen Prize for a British composition. The conditions would change each year; one year it might be for a work for young voices and a school orchestra, another year for the celebration of a national event or centenary, another time a work for an instrument whose repertory is small; but in any case for specific or general usefulness. And the Jury would be instructed to choose only that work which was a pleasure to perform and inspiriting to listen to. In this way I

2.2



- 1950: the programme included an essay "In Praise of Aldeburgh" by Robert Gathorne-Hardy, which talks about the local shingle shoreline and the plants on it; on 17<sup>th</sup> June there was a concert of "Water music and music of the sea" and on 24<sup>th</sup> June Julian Huxley gave a lecture on "The Satisfaction of Bird-Watching".
- 1951: the programme cover featured a drawing of an avocet, and on 15<sup>th</sup> June there was an RSPB film on "Minsmere Nature Reserve and the Avocet".
- 1952: the programme included an essay by Brigadier H.M. Stanford on "Bird Life in East Anglia", and on 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June there were showings of three RSPB films, one of which included footage of the local reserves at Minsmere and Havergate Island.
- 1954: the naturalist and RSPB vice-chair James Fisher gave a lecture on "Nature Protection".
- 1957: the programme included an essay by the Earl of Cranbrook on "The Flora of Suffolk", which dealt extensively with the coastal area.
- 1958: on June 19th there was a symposium, bringing together a scientist, a ship's captain and a fish merchant, on the herring.
- 1961: on 29<sup>th</sup> June Julian Huxley spoke about the protection and conservation of wildlife in Africa.
- 1965: on 25<sup>th</sup> June there was a symposium, bringing together various perspectives, on the sprat.
- 1969: on 9<sup>th</sup> June there was an evening beachcombing expedition in association with the Suffolk Naturalists' Society.
- 1971: on 17<sup>th</sup> June there was a film "The Last of the Wild", on threatened wildlife, presented in association with the Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation.
- 1972: on 5<sup>th</sup> June there was a showing of four RSPB films including "Avocets Return" (and "Wilderness is not a place", which focussed on tidal estuaries), and on 6<sup>th</sup> June a concert of "Music of the Sea".
- 1973: on 20<sup>th</sup> June there was a showing of three RSPB films, including "A Welcome in the Mud" on the construction of new habitats at Minsmere.
- 1974: on 19th June there was a showing of three films on British birds in different habitats.
- 1975: on 18<sup>th</sup> June there was a showing of three RSPB films, which the programme indicates featured both Minsmere and Havergate Island, the two flagship avocet sites.

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY MUSIC SOCIETY Programme

#### NATIONAL ANTHEM

- 2. Christmas Oratorio—Parts I and II (with omissions) . . . . . . . . . . J. S. Bach

#### PART I

- 1. Recitative, "Now it came to pass."
- 2. Recitative, "See now the bridegroom."
- 3. Air, "Prepare thyself, Zion."
- 4. Chorale, "How shall I fitly meet thee?"
- 5. Recitative, "And she brought forth her first-born Son."
- Chorale and Recitative, "For us to earth He cometh poor."
- 7. Chorale, "Ah, dearest Jesus."

#### PART I

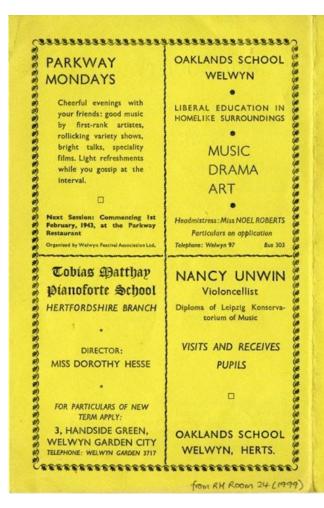
- 1. Symphony (Pastoral).
- 2. Recitative, "And there were shepherds."
- 3. Chorale, "Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light."
- 4. Recitative, "And the angel said."
- 5. Recitative, "What God to Abraham revealed."
- 6. Recitative, "And this shall be the sign to you."
- 7. Chorale, "Within you gloomy manger."
- 8. Recitative, "O haste ye then."
- 9. Air, "Slumber, beloved."
- 10. Recitative, "And suddenly."
- 11. Chorus, "Glory to God."
- 12. Recitative, "'Tis right that angels thus should sing."
- 13. Chorale, "With all thy hosts."

#### INTERVAL

3. Suite in B Minor for Flute and Strings (To be announced) PETER PEARS 5. Capriol Suite for Strings . . Peter Warlock 6. Part Songs and Carols: (a) Two canzonets, "Sweet Nymph, come to thy lover," "I go before, my darling" Part Song, "The Witch" . . . Stanford (b) Carols, "Ding Dong, merrily on high" Old French Three Polish Carols, "Little Jesus," "Cradle Song," "The Star" . arr. D. Erhart 7. Adeste Fideles. The audience is invited to join with the Choir and Orchestra in the rendering of this item. The Society is anxious to obtain further Patrons, and will be glad to hear of any one interested in its work. New members of both choir and orchestra will be welcomed. All particulars can

be had from the Hon. Sec., RAY CREE, 3 Handside Green,

Welwyn Garden City, Herts. Telephone: Welwyn Garden 3717.



WELWYN GARDEN CITY MUSIC SOCIETY
(POUNDED 1921)

(Twenty-Second Season)

CONCERT
FOR
CHRISTMAS

HANDSIDE SCHOOL HALL
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1942

CONDUCTORS:
Mary Ibberson—Joyce Goodman

SOLOISTS:

. . . HILDA HOLIDAY

ANNE WOOD

PETER PEARS

FRED PAGE

MARY SMART

. FRANK HESKETH

ELIZABETH SLOCOMBE

Soprano

Contralto

Tenor

Flute

LEADER

ACCOMPANIST

22410-24-3-47

Little Bar State S

PRISON COMMISSION,
HORSEFERRY HOUSE,
DEAN RYLE STREET,
WESTMINSTER,
LONDON, S.W.1.
28th January, 1952.

ar Mr. Britten,

Ffinch, the Governor of the Colony at Hollesley Bay, has told me of your interest in the Colony and of the considerable help which you are giving in respect of our stage in the new gymnasium. I understand that last week the foreman of works and our representative from this office visited the Lyric by your kind arrangement. I feel I must just write a line to thank you for your practical interest in the Colony. It is a great help to have your co-operation in the job of work that Ffinch and his staff are trying to do there.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Resorte

(R. L. BRADLEY)
Commissioner
Director of Borstals

Benjamin Britten, Esq., Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

# Programme

The Hon. BERNARD BARRINGTON, Chairman of the Board of Visitors, will welcome the assembly and declare the Gymnasium officially open

1. Songs by Purcell, Handel, Arne, Dibden, etc.

- INTERVAL -

- II. Songs by Frank Bridge, George Butterworth, John Ireland
- III. Folk-song arrangements by Percy Grainger, Benjamin Britten

Mr. L. M. FOX, C.B., M.C., Chairman of the Prison Commission, will address the assembly and Mr. BENJAMIN BRITTEN will reply

YOU ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SMOKE

HOLLESLEY BAY COLONY

# A CONCERT

GIVEN BY

Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears

to celebrate the

OPENING of the GYMNASIUM

Friday, April 18th, 1952 at 8 p.m.

Royal Hotel, howesteft. for howesteft Assa of Moral Welfare.

BENJAMIN BRITTEN (Piano)

and
REMO LAURICELLA (Violin)

November 29th, 1935.

PROGRAMME

SUBJECT TO SUIGHT ALTERATION.

I. Sonata in A major .... Handel

Remo Lauricella & Benjamin Britten

2. Six Variations in F. op. 34 .... Beethoven

Benjamin Britten

3. Movements from Suite op. 6 .... Britten

Remo Lauricella & Benjamin Britten

INTERVAL

4. Slavonic Dance No. I

in G minor .... Dvorak-Kreisler

Waltz in A major .... Brahms-Hochstein

Schon Rosmarin .... Kreisler

Remo Lauricella

5. Jeux d'eau .... Ravel

Nocturne in F sharp major

op. 15 No. 2 .... Chopin

Fun fair .... .... Britten

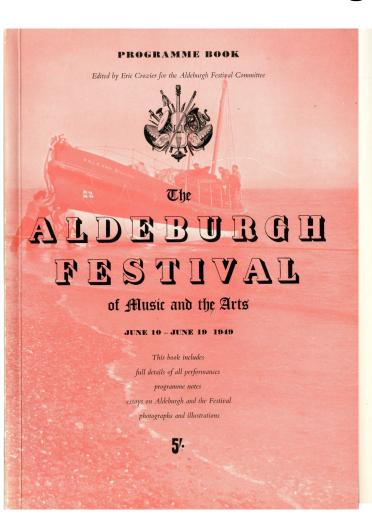
Benjamin Britten

6. Concerto in E minor .... Nardini

Remo Lauricella & Benjamin Britten



# 1949 Aldeburgh Festival



#### C. E. COLBECK

#### COASTAL EROSION AT ALDEBURGH

THE PAST

In Elizabethan times, a Commission was sent to Aldeburgh in response to a 'Petition, in respect to the near approach of the Sea, made by Justices', and the following are some

Upon our views do find the Town of Aldeburgh doth stand low and is not defended from the rage and violence of the sea but by certain loose shells or shingle wrought up with the the rage and violence of the sea but by certain loose sites or stangle wrought up with the force of the sea: when by contrary winds is in any place wrought there the houses adjoining thereunto are with violence and rage overthrown or for better safety are forced to be pulled down... these damages falling out at the North end of the towne... Two jetties made up have notably repelled the sea. Think that ten such like Jetties being builded... southerly in places most needful would be a good safety to the towne.

Whether these ten jetties were made is not recorded, but the old 1594 map in the Moot Hall shows the two jetties, and it is clear how much ground has been swept away

Moot Hall shows the two jetties, and it is clear how much ground has been swept away from the Northern end of the town since those days.

This old report might well have been written about Slaughden some three hundred years later. All the old houses there have been engulfed, but remains of them can be seen in the beach well below the present crest. A middle-aged fisherman of today remembers living in one of those small houses when he was a boy, and opening the front door and

the back door to let the water run through on a big tide.

Frequent reports of damage to the Slaughden road and to the beach at the south end of the town are recorded from the middle of the nineteenth century onwards. Between the years 1824 and 1934 the five fathom line on the charts moved 2,700 feet nearer the shore and the two fathom line about 1,000 feet. Between 1881 and 1925 the high water mark moved in some 30 feet opposite the south of the town, and 140 feet at the southern boundary of the borough beyond the Martello Tower.

Various projects for sea defences were mooted between 1852 and 1936, and there were

various projects for sea defences were mode between 1652 and 1592, and takes were at least two suggestions for cutting a channel between the sea and river south of Slaughden. Groynes were advocated many times, but always met with great opposition from the fishermen and some members of the Council—Groynes will do more harm than

the fishermen and some members of the Council—'Groynes will do more harm than good. Leave nature to herself or you will lose Aldeburgh.' In 1923 a councillor wrote, I oppose the trial of a groyne and meddling with the sea in general.

It was not until 1938 that the first real defence, the existing sea wall along the southern end of the town, was constructed, but groynes opposite the wall were ruled out. Meanwhile storms on the top of abnormal tides periodically swept over the crest of the beach, flooding the marshes and the lower end of the town. A boat has been rowed in the High Street, and the marsh floods have on occasion reached to within a short distance of the road junction of the Saxmundham and Leiston Roads near the railway station.

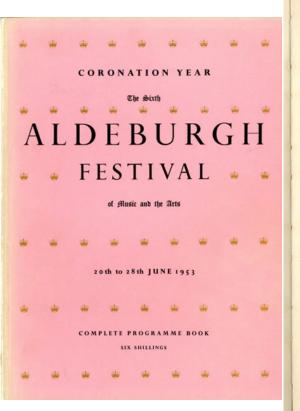
road junction of the Saxmundham and Leiston Roads near the railway station.

At last, in 1938, a consulting engineer was called in—Mr C. G. Du Cane, of Sir John Wolfe Barry and Partners. He produced a most excellent report. He considered it certain that 'the sea will break through to the river near the Yacht Club unless measures are taken. The highest point on the shingle bank near the Hazard (opposite a point a short distance north of the end of the river wall) is only four feet above high water, an entirely

Mr du Cane got out a scheme for a sea-wall and groynes extending from the south end of the town to the south boundary of the borough, at an estimated cost of £24,000.



ALDEBURGH The Storm of March 1st, 1949



P. V. DAVIES

The Borough Surveyor

#### THE STORM AT ALDEBURGH

31 January-1 February, 1953

THE early evening of Saturday, 31 January, was subsered in by a howling gale; the Officer in Charge of Coutguards (Mr. Abbs, B.B.M., D.S.M.) telephoned me at 9,300 p.m., his message—"there is going to be trouble at high idde" if eryptic, was sufficient to set in motion the necessary machinery to safeguard life and essential public services.

The British Fireman is called upon to perform many duties in addition to his primary role. A telephone call to There Control Headquarters, Jawwich, brough the Aldeburgh Fire Brigade under Corporation control ready to effect rescue and evacuation if necessary; smoothly and efficiently within a very short time Fire Control also had other vehicles and personnel converging upon Aldeburgh from inland towns to stand by in reserve. Street lights were ordered to be kept alight until morning so as to facilitate movement, and other rotottine dispositions were made by telephone.

As these and other precautions were taken, the sea, an hour before predicted high tide

As these and other precautions were taken, the sea, an hour before predicted high tide at 11.37 p.m., was breaking heavily against the town's defences, especially at the southern end near the Bradenell Hotel; a large volume of water was being thrown on to the Crag

Path and was finding its way into King Street and High Street.

As the hour of high tide approached the storm was at its highest—the seas threw on to the Crag Path a heavy deposit of shingle, in some cases doors and windows were broken by the force of the water; seats and other loose impedimenta on the beach were tossed about and many were carried into King Street.

About midnight the Coastguards were obliged to evacuate their Lookout; King Street and Crabbe Street, the latter especially near the Moot Hall, were flooded to some depth, also the High Street at the north end where the cellars of the Wentworth Hotel, the houses opposite, the garages, and the Festival Office were badly affected.

There was also flooding at the central part of the High Street near the Car Parks, but the most serious situation was at the extreme south end near the Black Horse Inn where many low lying dwellings were deeply inundated, the inhabitants had taken refuge in their first floor bedrooms. There was little that could be done at this stage, other than keep a watchful eye for public safety, and with the Mayor (Alderman E. E. Grundy) I accompanied Station Officer F. G. Coe, of the Fire Service, in his Land Rover on a general reconnaissance of the town.

With the bebing of the tide in the early hours of the morning of Sunday, I February, there was a gradual abatement of general flooding from the sea, but in the south end of the town the flood level continued to rise and the marshes between the town and the river Alde were entirely covered with water.

It then became apparent that we were seriously menaced from another direction; the river wall had been badly breached and the river tide, being some time later than in the river wall not been easy executed and the river toll; we could solve an advantage and as a second and was a second and as a second and a second as a s

end of the town to evacuate the inhabitants; using vehicles, ladders and boats working in

conjunction with local boatmen, people were removed to hospital or other temporary accommodation; this action was timely, for shortly afterwards the flood water suddenly

rose a further a½ fees in a period of a few minutes.

At the north end of the Borough at Thorpeneus, agap 120 feet wide and 10 feet deep in parts was cut by the sea which rushed into the marshes near the Mere. Part of a bungalow, fortunately unoccupied at the time, was washed away and two other dwellings left perilously near the edge. The Aldeburgh-Thorpeness Road at this point was severed.

Dawn on Sunday, 1 February, showed a somewhat battered Aldeburgh; the W.V.S. were already at work relieving distress, this was but the beginning of a splendid and sustained effort on their part. Almost half of the Borough area was inundated, some 300 houses had been flooded in varying degrees, of these about 100 were totally uninhabitable until a recession of the flood water. Apart from damage by water, structural damage was relatively light; above all we were thankful to have weathered the steem

Most of the public services were kept in operation-electricity and water supplies, Most of the public services were kept in operation—executivity and water suppuis, apart from a short break due to gale damage, continued to function, but, the sewerage system was completely put out of commission by the flooding of the Pumping Station. Dun Drew, the attendant, was obliged hurricidly to "abandom ship", wading up to his amplies to escape to higher ground, but at some risk returned to rescue his dog. However, with the assistance of the Fire Service the town's sewers began to flow again on the

following day.

Considerable further water was thrown over the front on the next day during the noon high tide on Sunday, 1 February, but there was no serious increase in flooding; all energies were directed to repair and rehabilitation. Hundreds of tons of shingle had to be removed to render some streets passable to traffic; on Monday and Tuesday, 2 and 3 February, Hertford Place, South High Street, Brudenell Street and King Street were cleared, using mechanical shovels. The Crag Path, which was most seriously affected, shingle being heaped to some depth against the houses, was made passable in five days, but not completely cleared until three weeks later.

The sea defences on the town front had sustained the severest punishment with but very minor damage, Colonel C. E. Colbeck, M.C., Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the Corporation's Sea Defence Committee, who was largely responsible for their construction, deservedly received the thanks of the Council; were it not for their existence, it is certain that most of the houses on the Crag Path would have been severely damaged and many totally destroyed.

The period immediately following the storm saw feverish activity in preparation for the next period of high tides—II-I8 February, buildozers, draglines, and other impedimenta of modern engineering were operated day and night by the East Suffolk and Nor-folk River Board to build a temporary defence wall to protect the south end of Aldeburgh. Volunteers of all ages helped the Corporation in general precautions in the town. Fortunately, however, the danger period passed without incident, but not without vigilance and some anxiety.

No record would be complete without reference to the fine spirit of the people in the affected parts of Aldeburgh; without panic they accepted their lot philosophically and immediately set to work to put things right, those unaffected by the floods flocked

generously to help them in a neighbourly spirit reminiscent of war-time years.

The town has now virtually recovered from its ordeal, its amenities to visitors are restored, at Slaughden the facilities for yachting have been reinstated and the club house repaired, all will be ship-shape to welcome our Summer visitors.

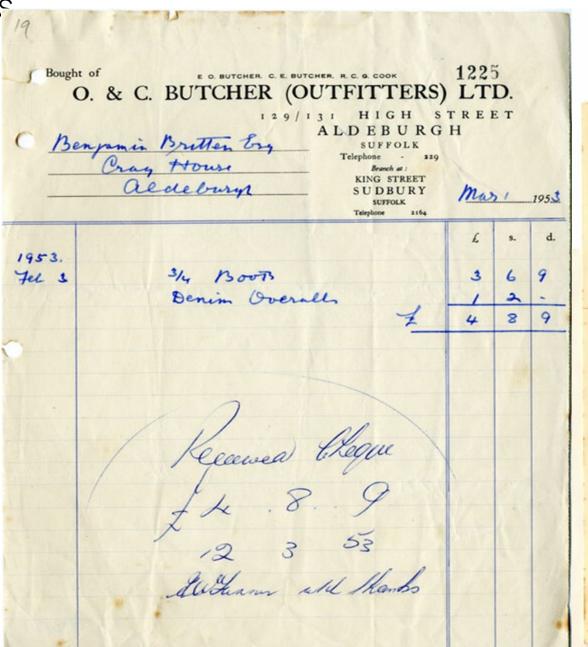


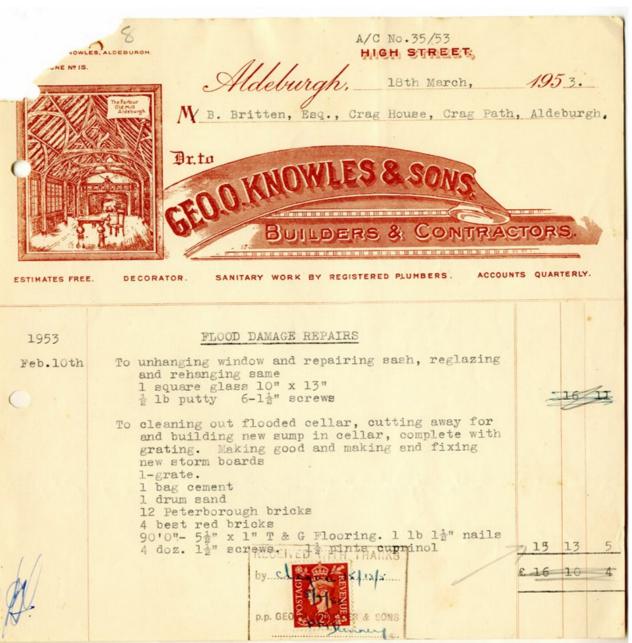
THE NIGHT OF 31 JANUARY 1953

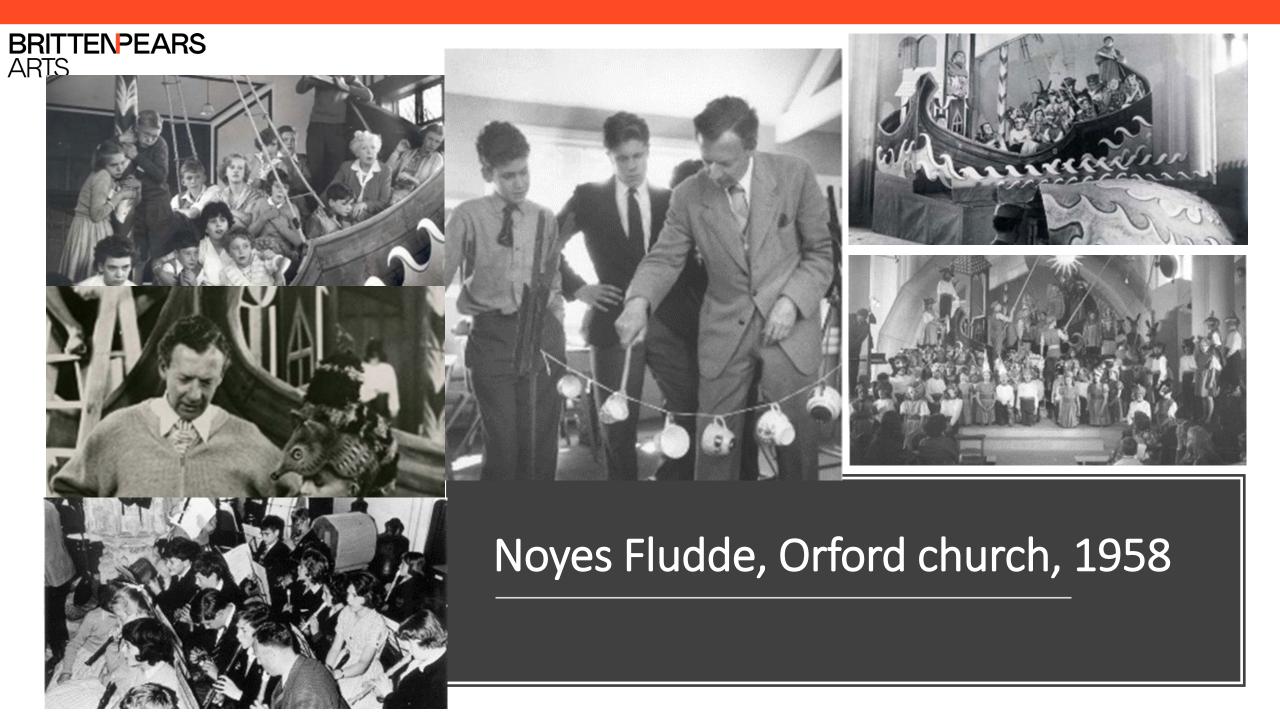


THE MORNING OF I PERSUARY 1953 Photographs by B. W. Aller

# 1953 Aldeburgh Festival









Song Recital

# PETER PEARS

(TENOR)

# BENJAMIN BRITTEN

(PIANOFORTE)

BLUE TRIANGLE HALL Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 1945

At 7.30 p.m.

Doors open 7.0 p.m.

Programme

FRIENDS RELIEF

Work performed Suite, op 6 and There was a Monk	cey Date 1939 03 07
Premiere	ID no.
Venue Liverpool .	
Notes Britten, pf.	Page 1 of 2

CENTRAL HALL, RENSHAW STREET, LIVERPOOL.

TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 7TH, 1939, AT 7.30 P.M.

# CELEBRITY CONCERT

IN AID OF

SPANISH WOMEN, CHILDREN AND REFUGEES IN SPAIN AND FRANCE

The proceeds of this Concert will be sent to THE NATIONAL JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SPANISH RELIEF 4 GREAT SMITH STREET, LONDON, S.W.1

# FRIENDS WAR RELIEF SERVICE

As the war goes on and whatever its state people in raided cities and in evacuee hostels are counting on us.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RAISE £25,000 A YEAR FROM THIS COUNTRY

THE CALL TO US IS TO GIVE MORE THAN WE HAVE EVER GIVEN BEFORE-" The Friend!", March 13th, 1942.

F.W.R.S., FRIENDS HOUSE, EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, N.W.I (Registered under the War Charities Act, 1940)

CONCERT

PETER PEARS

Tenor

NORMAN FRANKLIN

Pianoforte

also items by the

Bakewell Methodist Junior School Choir

(Conductor: Mr. J. W. Raine)

Monday, May 10th, 1943

at 730 p.m. at the

Wesley Church, Matlock Street, BAKEWELL.

Chairman: Mr. R. W. P. COCKERTON.

SILVER COLLECTION.

All over the country the homeless, the shelterers, and the children of blitzed towns are helped daily, in "blitz" and in "full", by

FRIENDS WAR RELIEF SERVICE

(Registered under the War Charities Act. 1940) GIVE ALL YOU CAN FOR THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING







#### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Toxocar's concert has been organized by Oxford University Amesty Group and forms part of its contribution to "Prisoner of Conscience Week" (17—3) November). Throughout this period members of Amnesty International in over 20 countries are working intensively together to urge governments to allow to their citizens freedom of opinion and of religious practice and to release their prisoners of conscience.

What is Anmesty International? In 1948 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was promulgated at the United Nations. Articles 18 and 19 asserted the right of all men to freedom of thought, conscience and religion—including the freedom to change their religion or belief and to manifest it in teaching practice, worship and observation—the right to hold opinions freely without interference, and the right to seek and impart information and isfeas through any media regardless of frontiers. Yet today many thousands of men and women are in prison—often suffering extreme hardship in appalling conditions—because their views conflict with those of their governments. Such are Jehovah's Wintensees in Spain, Catholicis in Hungary,

Democrats in Greece, Liberals in the "German Democratic Republic", Communists in Portugal and in the Federal German Republic, Jews in Russia, opponents of the Vietnamese war in America. Nationalists in Rhodesia, anti-Apartheid workers in South Africa, and so on. We in this country are forumate rarely to have experienced conditions in which such criess of conscience are necessary, and it is therefore fitting that Amnessy International should have been founded in Britain in 1961 by Peter Benenson, a graduate of Balliol and a Barrister. The aims of this humanitarian organization are to work for the release of non-violent prisoners of conscience and to seek to relieve the hardships of their families through the provision of material did.

The proceeds from this concert are to be given to the British Section. National Sections of Amesety, in addition to research work and the preparation of cases histories, also erganise the 550 or to voluntary Gones-—of which there were some 170 in Britain in 1966-7. The Group is Amenety's front-line unit in the war against prejudice and persecution. Each Group "adopts" there prisoners—from the East, the West, and from a next. country respectively. Letters, postcards, petitions are sent to high-ranking officials in prisons, embassies, government departments, etc., to gain information and to plead for the release of their prisoners. Since 1961 1.500 adopted prisoners have gained their freedom, and there is overwhelming evidence to show that in many cases success is attributable in full measure to the activity of Amnesty Groups. There are at present five such "Threes Groups" co-ordinated by the Oxfood University Group Committee—which also holds meetings, conducts fund-raising campatigns on behalf of the National Section, and organizes research projects on conditions in various countries.

Unfortunately Amnesty International has been misunderstood, misrepresented, and slandered consistents since its foundation. An official of the Anglo-Rhodensian Society, for example, has described the movement as appearing to concern itself solely with the protection of Communist activists. In contrast, a former member of the Public Prosecutor's Office in East Germany suggested in the Berliner Zeitung (5 June 1966) that By kind permission of His Worship the Lord Mayor and the Rev. the Vice-Chancellor.

# CONCERT

for

# HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR

In aid of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Saturday 16th November at 8.15 p.m. in the SHELDONIAN THEATRE

CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF



## CONCERT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR

Span

Overture: "Egmont" - - - - Beethoven

Symphony No. 3 in E flat (The Rhenish) - - - Schumann

#### INTERVAL

Adagio and Fugue in C minor for Strings - - Mozart

Cantata Misericordium - - - - Britten

Conducted by Benjamin Britten

PETER PEARS (Tenor)

THOMAS HEMSLEY (Baritone)

VIOLA TUNNARD (Piano)

OSIAN ELLIS (Harp)

JAMES HOLLAND (Timpani)

THE AEOLIAN STRING QUARTET (Leader, Sidney Humphreys)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA (Leader, Philip Wilby)

SCHOLA CANTORUM OF OXFORD (Conductor, Andrew Parrott)

BENJAMIN BRITTEN, EDWARD OLLESON (Conductors)





BRITTENPEARS

AFRICAN

# AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

(SOUTH AFRICA)

Telephone: FRObisher 1914

3, Collingham Gardens,

London, S.W.5

**ENGLAND** 

9th October, 1963.

Mr. Benjamin Britten, The Red House, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

Dear Mr. Britten,

You were kind enough to agree recently to becoming a sponsor of a world campaign for the release of South African political prisoners, and will probably be interested in learning that our principal sponsors are now The Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, P.C., M.P., The Rt. Hon. Jo Grimond, P.C., M.P., The Lord Ogmore, Mr. Gerald Gardiner, Q.C., and Mr. Henry Moore.

Mr. Jeremy Thrope, M.P., has agreed to act as Hemourable Secretary The Te to the campaign.

The latest news from South Africa is that a group of the most respected of the detainees are to be tried almost at once for sabotage, and the death sentence demanded. This makes it imperative for us to act at once, and to call a press conference possibly this week to announce the launching of an International Campaign for their release. The enclosed declaration is planned to form the basis for such a campaign. We should be grateful to hear from you as soon as you receive this letter, by phone or telegram, that you are satisfied with the text, which is now to be circulated internationally for signatures.

Yours faithfully,

MAINDY MSIMANO

Administrative Officer,

African National Congress of South Africa.

Enc.

MM/jb

# AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

(SOUTH AFRICA)

Telephone: FRObisher 1914

The Red House,

Collingham Gardens,
 London, S.W.5
 ENGLAND

29th August, 1963

Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

Benjamin Britten. C.H ..

Dear Sir.

We are approaching you with a view to asking you to act as one of the sponsors of an international campaign for the release of South African political prisoners. This will be a campaign aimed at saving the lives of an increasing number of political prisoners in South Africa, whose only crime has been their protest against apartheid. Many have already been sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from five years to natural life. Others have indeed been sentenced to death.

It is hoped to form a committee composed of various outstanding figures, and sponsored by people of internationa reputation. Amongst the sponsors who have already agreed to act in Britain are Mr. Wilson, Leader of the Labour Party, Mr. Grimond, Leader of the Liberal Party, Mr. Gerlad Gardener, Mr. Allywn Jones and Archbishop Roberts (who has agreed to act as chairman).

In view of the impending trial of 160 people on charges of "sabotage", the launching of this campaign is a matter of great urgency. We would ask you to give your name in support of the campaign.

Yours faithfully,

Raymond Kunene London Representative African National Congress

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# Parent Record(s)

Level Ref. Title

Collection BBS Correspondence of Benjamin Britten...

### Level

File

## Reference

BBS/SOCIETY\_ANGLO\_CHINESE\_UNDERSTANDING

# Title

<u>Correspondence between Benjamin Britten and Society for Anglo-Chinese</u> <u>Understanding</u>

## Date

1965-1974

# Description

Includes a complaint and withdrawal from the society by Hugh Trevor-Roper, a booklet titled China Now, newsletters for 1966-1969, a report on the inaugural meeting and general letters addressed to members of the society including a list of sponsors in 1965.

Other correspondence is from S. C. Choo, Betty Paterson, Peter Patrick, Derek Bryan, and Joseph Needham.

## Extent

1 file; 12 items

## Related Material

BBA/SOCIETY\_ANGLO\_CHINESE\_UNDERSTANDING

## Catalogue

Archive

## **Permalink**

https://www.bpacatalogue.org/archive/BBS-SOCIETY\_ANGLO\_CHINESE\_UNDERSTANDING





# Thank you!

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